

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 10, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 p.m.

INVOCATION: Father Mike Maginot – St. Stephens Martyr Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Miano and Mrs. Barron were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

A plaque was presented to Steve Villareal to honor his 32 years of service with Public Works. Ron Widing was also honored for 16 years of service as Councilman in Ward 7. Mr. Widing was unable to attend the meeting and will be presented his plaque at a later time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated November 10, 2015. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2015. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

There was a bid opening for the 2015-2016 Merrillville CDBG ADA Curb Ramp Rehabilitation Project. All submitted bids were opened and the proposals were announced. Mr. Pettit made a motion to take the bids under advisement for further review. Mr. Hardaway seconded the motion of advisement. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS: Mrs. Miano was absent, no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr. Pettit announced the 2016 insurance renewal information for Aetna Medical, Guardian Dental, and Lincoln Basic / Voluntary Life. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY: No report for Public Safety.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Mrs. Miano was absent, no report. Ms. Orlich congratulated the 2015 Merrillville Pop Warner Mitey Mites for their undefeated season. They will be holding a fundraiser at the Pruzin Center on Sunday, November 15th from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. As a reminder, Ms. Orlich stated the Senior Lunch will be Friday, November 13th and Holiday Turkey Bingo will be Thursday, November 19th. She encouraged anyone interested in attending these events to call make a reservation. Ms. Orlich announced that the Christian Home Health Center will be providing Flu Shots at the Pruzin Center on Friday, November 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

President Goralczyk had no report. Mr. Lake announced that the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center will host a Lunch & Learn, on November 17, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Lake mentioned that bids are being solicited for the Ross Meadows Farms drainage project.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

As a reminder, Mr. Pettit stated that the Annual Crossroads Regional Chamber Gala will be held at the Radisson Star Plaza on November 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron was absent, no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

Mr. Hardaway said he is interested in obtaining a collection agency to assist with the efforts of collecting funds related to the vacant and abandoned building registration and maintenance program. There was also a discussion regarding unwanted signs being posted around the town soliciting troubled/desperate homeowners. Mr. Hardaway would like everyone to be aware of this activity and if you see someone posting these types of signs to try to obtain the license plate number of the vehicle involved.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-31: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, fixing the salaries and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 4-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 15-29: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Mississippi Street TIF Fund for the year 2015 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 4-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 15-30: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, depleting monies of the 2015 budget within various departmental budgets. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Some discussion followed. There was no public comment. The motion carried by a 4-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

Petitioner: GAJ Properties
Owner: Greg Furman
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: For construction office only
Location: 5660 Cleveland Street
Zoning: R-1 Single Family Residential
Case #: Z36uV11-1015
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only. No outside storage of contractor's equipment or material.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve with the conditions and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Petitioner: Pastor Michael Otano
Owner: Christian Revival Center
Request: Variance of use approval
Purpose: To allow a church to have an electronic message center addition, to increase the size of an electronic message center sign on a legal non-conforming use sign from 20 square feet to 36 square feet to advertise church functions and the business located on the church property.
Location: 805 West 57th Avenue
Zoning: C-2 Community Commercial
Case #: Z39uV12-1015
Conditions: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only. Time limitation for message display is from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve with the conditions and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BZA BUSINESS:

1) **View Outdoor Advertising, LLC**
Request: To reconsider and allow for a condition to be changed on a previously approved petition: To allow for the display of an electronic message center sign also on the east face of the 14'x48' billboard sign.

Mr. Hardaway made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was some discussion. Mr. Pettit abstained from the vote due to this being a competing sign company for his employer. The motion passed by a voice vote of 3-1 abstention.

2) **Pepe's Restaurant**
Request: To allow the established family owned Pepe's Restaurant since 1978 to relocate their restaurant use in a vacant building located at 260 East 84th Drive that was always used for a restaurant due to the purchase of their property and demolition of their existing building for CVS to construct a new building on this site.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to assign the previously approved special exception to Pepe's Restaurant to allow them to relocate to 260 East 84th Drive. The motion includes the condition as follows: For this petitioner only at this location only for this use only. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hardaway. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pettit complimented Dyer Construction for the work that they have done on Mississippi Street. The venture has gone extremely smoothly. Mr. Pettit praised all workers involved with the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hardaway discussed possibly offering Piatak Meats a façade grant to enhance the appearance of the front of the building. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hardaway also mentioned taking a look at the vacancies for the 2016 commissions. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services)
November 11, 2015 in observance of Veterans Day.

Veterans Day Ceremony will be on November 11, 2015 at
11:00 a.m. (To be held in the Town Council meeting room)

Plan Commission meeting, November 17, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, November 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Environmental Resource Committee meeting, November 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Town Council meeting, November 24, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardaway and seconded by Mr. Pettit.

Tom Goralczyk, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer